

Date 11-10-04

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RE: Docket #04-00166 & 04-00211

NOV 18 PM 1:05
T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Received
RON JONES

NOV 15 2004

TN Regulatory Authority

Dear Chairman Pat Miller,
Director Deborah Taylor Tate
Director Sara Kyle
Director Ron Jones

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority Docket # 04-00166 and 04-00211, if approved, could allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tennessee jails and prisons I am urging you to support the children and families of prisoners and vote against any increases in cost and possible decreases in time length of calls from a states or local penal institution.

Personally I am concerned for those of us that have children at an age were family and parent intervention is important regardless of the form it comes in. These rate increases and the potential for time length reductions are direct blows to our family bonds. We are still struggling very hard to maintain. There is only a big finical gain for the Telephone companies that are suggesting these increases. Although there in the business to make money. We as families are struggling to keep our families as close as possible and for many of us that mean the phone call that we receive and pay for are our only way to make sure that our children realize that his/her loved one did not just abandoned the family but made poor decisions. The Loved ones that are incarcerated often make sure that they speak to there children and make a sincere effort give advice on what not to do to follow in there foot steps. Here are few ways my

husband and I try to make sure that our four children know that their father cares about their school and what is happening in their lives. Being that we have four children the 30min phone call is greatly appreciated, after my husband speaks to the children about their day and school he often has to call me back just to talk to me and offer me advice on how to handle certain situations with the children. Our children often feel better about discussing their problems with their father. He then follows up with me and give me advice on the situation so that I will know what I am going into prior to speaking with our children.

This kind of time is valuable and not just to my husband but to our entire family.

The approval of this proposed Increase from Global Tel-Link is not justified. Their first concern should be to their consumers, however since they are aware that they offer a service that is so heavily relied on they do not take into account that we can't afford the increases or the time length reductions. They have shown that they do not care about what we think, that is evident in the suggestion alone. (Increase the rate by 50% and reduce the time by 50% I would like to ask them, how do that make since?) that is like an employer saying I want you to work 50% longer and I am going to reduce your pay by 50%.

The family's that pay the cost as it is now will be greatly affected. Usually these families are among the poorest in the state any way and are among the working poor.

No one is asking to be given anything, but fairness. That should be demanded by those that are in public office. The big Business preys on and counts on the families of inmates not having a voice and no one to defend our interest.

I sincerely ask that you help our families. It is a known fact that an inmate with strong family ties is less likely to recommit any crime. Your decision could possibly help end this vicious cycle that is increasing here in Tennessee with our community and tax payer dollars being funneled into the prison system so this is not just about the price increase but is about helping to elevate the cycle of recidivism that has become a big part of the criminal system.

Many others and I sincerely hope you help the families and the bonds that we have through these telephone calls. Please help us continue to grow stronger and that you represent the families and our concerns once you review the proposal from Global Tel-Link.

As a concerned citizen I will hope to be present at the meeting when this matter is to be discussed. I will be watching this matter closely.

Sincerely,
Nakeda Kirby
805 Chadwell Dr.
Madison TN, 37115